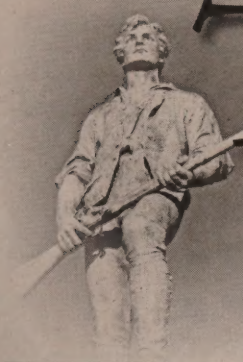
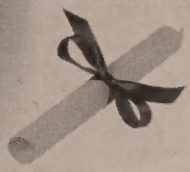


The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969



Senior Destinations
After four years at LHS, members of the Class of 2015 are starting new journeys. See where they are headed!
[turn to pages 2 & 3]

1997 / 2015

1997 vs. 2015
A great deal has changed since the Class of 2015 was born, from politics to popular culture.
[turn to page 4]

Volume LVII Issue VI— May 2015

Four LHS seniors discuss destinations

2015

James Bickford: military

By Print Opinion Editor Andrea Michelson.

LHS senior James Bickford plans to begin his training as a U.S. Army cannon crew member this summer at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. His basic training also includes a week in Oklahoma and "jump school" in Georgia.

Bickford said that his desire to join the army was partially inspired by his family. He comes from a military background and was particularly influenced by his grandfather, a veteran. Bickford also said that he hopes to gain personal growth from serving in the military.

"I'm still kind of developing into adulthood, but I hope that joining the military will give me a lot of structure and direction," Bickford said.

Bickford said he aspires to enroll in the police academy if he does not pursue a military career. He may consider attending college later on.

Jeff Buchanan: music conservatory

By A&E Editor Cathy Ouyang.

Current LHS senior Jeff Buchanan will be a part of Berklee College of Music's Class of 2019. Buchanan plays the electric guitar and trombone, but will primarily be focusing on the guitar at Berklee.

Although Buchanan is looking forward to attending Berklee this fall, he said he is aware of the challenging and competitive nature of the school.

"I know that there is a plethora of work to be done in terms of preparation," Buchanan said.

However, he is thankful for the guidance the LHS music program has offered him.

Buchanan said, "I've learned so much not only from all of my teachers, but also from all of my talented musical peers. LHS has played a huge role in preparing me for music school and I am extremely grateful for all of incredible experiences I've had here."

Lyla Connolly: gap year

By Online Opinion Editor Valerie Hsieh.

While most current LHS seniors will be readjusting to life in a new environment this coming fall, few will venture as far as senior Lyla Connolly. Connolly plans to spend a gap year in Nepal with the student travel program "Where There Be Dragons."

Although Connolly already traveled with the program during the summer prior to her senior year, she said she decided to travel to Nepal during her gap year in order to gain a new perspective on a country as a traveler rather than a tourist, as well as to seize the opportunity to backpack across the Himalayas.

"I was drawn to Nepal because it's the second poorest country in the world, and people, coming from a country like America, associate dire circumstances of poverty in [countries like Nepal], but there's also so much beauty," she said. "I hope to gain a connection with a place that's radically different from everything I know."

Connolly hopes to apply her experiences to her studies at Hamilton College, where she plans to study sociology and developmental immigration.

Thomas Donahue: work

By News Editor Soumya Ram.

LHS senior Thomas Donahue is planning on gaining some real-world work experience next year.

He hopes to work for his father in residential construction and continue the business he started selling firewood and snowplowing.

He attributes his decision to the different environments in work and school.

"I feel very confident in my decisions about going into the working field. School was always a big struggle for me and I had a lot of trouble sitting still in class," Donahue said. "In a town like Lexington you get judged about what you do after high school. I've just set goals and proceeded to pursue them."

His family also played a big role in his decision.

"Ever since I was a little kid I always wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps," Donahue said.

CLASS OF 2015 SENIOR DESTINATIONS

Abalian, Sirena	Columbia College Chicago
Abbate, Arthur	Tufts University
Abdullahi, Abyan	Bucknell University
Abedi, Tania	Simmons College
Adley, Brice	Endicott College
Agne, Thomas	Bryant University
Akimchuk, Daniel	Ithaca College
Alafandi, Mohamed Azat	Gap Year
AlAoeasheg, Sara	Curry College
Alen, Samuel	University of Rochester
Alessandro, Daniel	Northwestern University
Alexandre, Jean-Luc	
Altschuler, Jacqueline	Ohio State University
Anand, Krishna	Reed College
Antonevich, Kevin	College of William & Mary
Antony, Ashvin	Vanderbilt University
Arnold, Warren	Johnson & Wales University
Arthur, Zhane	Undecided
Attia, George	Boston University
Attia, William	Roger Williams University
Averbuch, Benjamin	Northeastern University
Ayala, Adrian	UMass Amherst
Ayar, Viraj	University of Toronto
Baer, Alyssa	Roger Williams University
Ballo, Julie	UMass Lowell
Bank, Zelda	Swarthmore College
Barner Jr., David	Thomas College
Baxter-King, Dylan	Union College
Ben-Horin, Lisa	George Washington University
Bentham, Fiona	Loyola University Maryland
Beppu, Yuki	Juilliard School of Music
Berger, Caroline	McGill University
Berman, Samantha	Harvard University
Bernstein, Meredith	Tufts University
Berube, Gabriela	Suffolk University
Bheemarasetty, Vineetha	Carnegie Mellon University
Bickford, James	Army
Binner-Haramundanis, Saija	
Blanter, Katherine	Suffolk University
Blau, Ryan	University of Connecticut
Blumberg, Joseph	Yale University
Boeglin, Connor	Methodist University
Bokun, Lillian	Rochester Institute of Technology
Bordley, Kayla	University of Hartford
Bozkaya, Tolga	Columbia University
Brambila, Jose	Lasell College
Breitenfeld, Paul	Haverford College
Britton, George	Oxford Brookes University
Britton, Maximilian	UMass Lowell
Brody, Samuel	Clark University
Brookes, Kyle	Emerson College
Brown, Noah	Elon University
Brown, Victoria	Norwich University
Bryant, Cullen	University of New Hampshire
Buchanan, Jeffrey	Berklee College of Music
Buschini, Ryan	University of New Hampshire
Bush, Kendall	Boston Conservatory
Cabral Campos, Joao Matheus	Middlesex Community College
Callahan, Reed	Boston University
Caloggero, Max	Gap Year/Work
Caples, John	Elon University
Carballo, Enrique	Work
Carington, Samantha	Bay State College
Carlson, Curtis	Springfield College
Carreras, Caroline	Bates College
Carter, Caroline	Bowdoin College
Caruso, Emma	William Woods University
Casey-Fleener, Katharine	UMass Amherst
Castro, Ruben	University of Maine
Chakraborty, Meena	MIT
Charbit, Jazi	Gap Year/London College of Fashion
Chari, Bharath	Bentley University
Cheatham, Lyle	University of Waterloo
Chen, Jerrick	University of Illinois
Chen, Katherine	Amherst College
Chen, Kevin	
Chiakpo, Colin	Undecided
Chin, Alaina	Stony Brook University
Chippada, Preetham	Georgetown University
Cho, Collinn	UMass Lowell
Cho, Junho	University of Texas at Dallas
Cho, SungWoo	Purdue University
Choi, Joyce	Elon University
Chojnacki, Sara	Union College
Chuang, Emily	Northeastern University
Clark, Quinten	Gap Year
Clayton, Elianna	Gap Year/Colorado College
Coburn, Charles	Princeton University
Collins, Zachery	
Connolly, Lyla	Gap Year/Hamilton College
Connors, Kendra	College of Charleston
Cooke, Stephen	UMass Lowell
Coons, Elizabeth	Winthrop University
Corbett, Sonia	University of South Carolina
Cordova, Vienna	Gap Year/Washington University in St. Louis
Costa, Pau	Northeastern University
Coughlin, Maeve	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Cui, Mark	Dartmouth College
Daniel, Makeda	Harvard University
Dasilva, Elijah	UMass Boston
Daugherty, Brendon	UC Los Angeles
Dawson, John	Husson University
De Silva, Suchith	UMass Amherst
Decker, Heather	Villanova University
Decoste, William	Bentley University
Dee, Kathryn	Hofstra University
Delity, Akshay	UMass Amherst
Denning, Rebecca	Quinnipiac University
Deschler, Jack	Harvard University
Dickson, Olivia	Emerson College
DiGiovanni, Giulia	Endicott College
Dimmock, Jessica	UMass Amherst
Dinnar, Shai	Brandeis University
Dolan, Ana	UMass Amherst
Donahue, Thomas	Work
Douvas, Anthea	Hofstra University
Dugan, Daniel	McGill University
Efrat, Maya	Kent State University
Eltahir, Muhammad	MIT
Embry, Ethan	Skidmore College
Erdogan, Ahmed	Istanbul University
Evans, Nicole	Syracuse University
Fahy, Callie	University of Vermont
Feeney, Anne-Marie	Connecticut College
Fei, Kitty	New York University
Feifke, Gideon	University of Rochester
Feng, Wushulong	
Fenn, Corrie	Hartwick College
Feyzo-Pearlman, Maya	Skidmore College
Fiora, Lenae	University of Vermont
Flint, Zachary	Boston University
Flynn, Cecilia	Roger Williams University
Flynn, Rhiannon	UNC Wilmington
Foley, Matthew	UMass Amherst
Fomitcheva, Eugenia	Carnegie Mellon University
Forlenza, Caroline	University of Notre Dame
Forman, William	University of Arizona
Foss, Courtney	
Foss, Danielle	Undecided
Foster, Julia	Westfield State University
Foster, Rachel	Carleton College
Fotheringham, Saraya	
Franklin, Janelle	University of Vermont
Fraser, Camille	Spelman College
Friedman, Benjamin	University of Pennsylvania
Gaines, Derek	UMass Amherst
Garrity, Peter	UC Irvine
Geldart, John	Stevens Institute of Technology
George, Janice	MCPHS
George, Katherine	Fordham University
Ghorbani, Lily	UNC Charlotte
Giesen, Max	Quinnipiac University
Gill, Matthew	UMass Amherst
Gillis, Teresa	George Washington University
Gilroy, Colin	
Gimble, Rachel	Westfield State University
Glass, Stephanie	New York University
Go, Leanne	UC San Diego
Gollub, Samuel	Elon University
Golowich, Noah	Harvard University
Gong, Raymond	Vanderbilt University
Goodman, Jesse	UMass Amherst
Goolkasian, Gillian	University of Vermont
Gouker, Stacey	Boston University
Grant, Christopher	Gonzaga University
Gravallese, Matthew	Gap Year/Work
Grossi, Paula	University of New Hampshire
Guerrier, Serge	Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Guo, Cathy	Cornell University
Gupta, Nicolas	UMass Amherst
Gupta, Shinichi	UMass Amherst
Hacobian, Sevana	Boston University
Hadzic, Sanin	Gap Year
Hagan, Benjamin	
Hahn-Du Pont, Sarah	UMass Amherst
Hajjar, Serena	University of Pennsylvania
Halperin-Goldstein, Gabriel	Macalester College
Han, Tim	Cornell University
Hao, Zhiqiang	
Haque, Safa	
Harlow, Colby	University of New England
Harrington, Noah	Berklee College of Music
Harris, Elan	Pomona College
Harris, Paige	Goucher College
Harvey, Joel	Elon University
Harvey, Nicole	Framingham State University
Hayes, Castor	Purdue University
Healy, Tyler	Washington University in St. Louis
Hefferman, Liam	Gap Year
Hernandez, Christopher	Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Hernandez, Megan	UMass Dartmouth
Heyang, Michael	Cornell University
Heyang, Michelle	Northeastern University
Hikami, Souma	Gap Year
Hintlian, Pamela	University of Kansas
Hochman, Carter	Springfield College
Hogan, Kate	UMass Amherst
Housen, Molly	
Houston, Emma	Claremont McKenna College
Hsu, Eric	Washington University in St. Louis
Huang, Samuel	Johns Hopkins University
Huff, Alexavier	West Virginia University
Hunter, Michael	Springfield College
Igarashi, Namika	Undecided
Ikezu, Akifumi	Boston University
Ingwersen, Bridgit	San Diego State University
Ioakimidis, Maria	Virginia Tech
Iuliano, Maria	Gap Year/University of Texas at Austin
Ives, Benjamin	Bryant University
Jackan, Claire	Grinnell College
Jacobson, Benjamin	Princeton University
Jain, Milan	UMass Lowell
Jameyson, Jessica	Goucher College
Jayaswal, Navin	Rutgers University
Jerosch-Herold, Vincent	Jacobs University
Johnson, Tannor	UMass Amherst
Jones, Ryan	Worcester State University
Kalambi, Anushri	PrattMWP
Kang, Woojin	McGill University
Karnam, Mayukha	Harvard University
Karthikeyan, Ojaswin Ganesan	Brandeis University
Kassey, Sharon	Gap Year
Katz, Daniel	University of Virginia
Katz, Lee	Tulane University
Kefallinos, Peter	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Kent, Jovanni	Navy
Keohane, Madison	Colby College
Kepler, Alana	Smith College
Kermisch, Benjamin	Cornell University
Khamesra, Aushee	UMass Amherst
Khandelwal, Arjun	MIT
Kim, Daehyun	Dartmouth College
Kim, Daniel	Harvard University
Kim, Eugene	Purdue University
Kim, Susie	UMass Amherst
Kim, Jae	Boston University
Kim, Andy	Purdue University
Kim, Gina	University of New Hampshire
Kim, Jongwon	Rice University
Kim, Jungwan	Amherst College
Kim, Justin	University of Pennsylvania
Kim, Min Kyu	Brandeis University
Klinzing, Jacob	UMass Amherst
Knara, Michal	Suffolk University
Ko, Eunice	UMass Amherst
Ko, JiMin	Columbia University
Kobs, Mia	Dartmouth College
Kombo, David	West Virginia University
Kong, Lingdi	Fisher College
Kouchakdjian, Stepan	American University of Armenia
Kouyoumjian, Alina	
Krishnan, Nikhil	UC Berkeley
Kukolich, Peter	University of Colorado
Kwak, JunGoo	UMass Amherst
Laad, Isha	Carnegie Mellon University
Labitt, Rebecca	UMass Amherst
Lahiff, John	Worcester State University
Landrigan, Ryan	
Lane, Rebecca	George Washington University
Lang, Anna	Colorado College
Lang, Jackson	Davidson College
Lang, Lucy	Middlebury College
Lau, Harmon	UMass Amherst
Laurenzi, James	New York University

The Musket is proud to present Senior Destinations, our annual compilation of the various plans for the graduating Class of 2015. This information has been compiled to the best of The

Lee, Ethan	Mount Ida College
Lee, Eunyoung	Rhode Island School of Design
Lee, Jueun	MIT
Lee, Ryan	UMass Amherst
Lehman, Serena	Skidmore College
Leopold, Alexander	Gap Year/SUNY Binghamton
Lerner, Marissa	Washington University in St. Louis
Levey, Skylar	Connecticut College
Li, Audrey	MIT
Li, Charles	Carnegie Mellon University
Li, Henry	University of Chicago
Li, Jiamin	Cornell University
Li, Jiexi	
Li, Matthew	UMass Amherst
Li, Tevin	Ohio State University
Li, Yihang	Northeastern University
Li, Tiffany	UMass Amherst
Liberman, Matthew	Syracuse University
Liebeskind, Benjamin	University of Vermont
Lienhard, Hannah	MIT
Lim, Cheng Guan	
Lin, Amanda	New York University
Lin, Bella	Boston University
Lindley, Samuel	High Point University
Lingard, James	UMass Lowell
Liou, Rachelle	UMass Amherst
Logan, Megan	Georgetown University
Lukez, Stephanie	Haverford College
Luo, Andrew	MIT
Luo, Serena	Northeastern University
Ma, Annie	University of Rochester
Ma, Shirley	Emory University
Madigan, Michael	University of Arizona
Mael, Andrea	Case Western Reserve University
Mael, Sara	Barnard College
Magembe, Ronah	MCPHS
Maimonis, Alexis	Hellenic College
Majumdar, Deepak	Military
Manevich, Anna	Boston University
Manickas-Hill, Olivia	Harvard University
Manuelian, Ana	University of Vermont
Martel, Ilise	Columbia University
Martell, Benjamin	University of Rochester
Martin, Marcus	Newbury College
Massie, Sydney	Gap Year
McGeown, Max	Union College
McIlrath, Douglas	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
McKenna, Christopher	New England Hair Academy
McLaughlin, Thomas	Virginia Tech University
McMullen, Alexander	Middlesex Community College
McNabb, Allison	Fordham University
McNamara, Timothy	UMass Amherst
Meadow, Zoe	Skidmore College
Mehrjui, Seyed Safa	Pratt Institute
Mehrotra, Katrina	Manhattan College
Mei, Evan	Bryant University
Michelson, Noah	Stony Brook University
Minasian, Nicolas	
Mitchell, Jennifer	University of Vermont
Monzillo, Samuel	St. Lawrence University
Moore, Gideon	Bowdoin College
Morales, Daunyelle	American International College
Morrisett, Amy	Harvard University
Morrison, Bailey	Framingham State University
Mudgal, Rohan	Cooper Union
Mullen IV, John	Nichols College
Mulligan, Abigail	Colby College
Mulliner, Cody	Salem State University
Murphy, Connor	Catholic University of America
Murphy, Elizabeth	University of Vermont
Nam, Brian	McGill University
Navia, David	Case Western Reserve University
Nehrbass, Alexander	McGill University
Nilsson, Anna	Undecided
O'Neill, Kelly	Trinity College
O'Rourke, Tessa	George Washington University
Offerhaus, Philippine	Utrecht University
Ohashi, Yukimi	Cornell University
Ojdrovic, Aleksandar	Northeastern University
Oliveira Soens, Peter	Emory University
Ong, Carmelia	University of Michigan
Orcutt, Isabella	Drexel University
Ortiz, Alamor	Bentley University
Ouyang, Cathy	Cornell University
Oye, Benjamin	University of Chicago
Pabla, Manraj	
Padir, Aylin	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Pastore, Isabel	New York University
Patarroyo-White, Cole	Lyndon State College
Patel, Prayag	
Perry, Emma	Boston College
Peterson, Cassandra	University of Michigan
Phelps, Chloe	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Phillips, Olivia	UMass Lowell
Pickering, Desta	Mount Allison University
Poland, Kara	Military
Poland, Kendall	
Polansky, Zachary	University of Rochester
Potluri, Jen	UMass Amherst
Prescheux, Pauline	UMass Amherst
Price, Frankeisha	Gap Year
Prophet, Marc	Suffolk University
Pryor, Cathryn	University of Tennessee
Purdy, Thomas	Emory University
Pusatere, Christian	College of the Holy Cross
Qiu, Alan	Carnegie Mellon University
Qiu, Steven	
Rao, Sneha	UC Berkeley
Redmon, Hannah	Gap Year/Bates College
Reilly, Katherine	Fairfield University
Reynolds, Matthew	Harvard University
Ricci, Alexis	
Robichaud, Sabrina	Tulane University
Rockwell-Postel, Mei	UMass Amherst
Rosenberg, Mark	Gap Year/Yale University
Rowley, Sonia	Dartmouth College
Roy, Uma	MIT
Rudolph-Savarese, Gia	
Sarathy, Arjun	Cornell University
Savage, Vanessa	Ohio State University
Schmidt, Helen	Texas A&M University
Schmitt, Isabel	
Schoch, Timothy	Carleton College
Schwartz, Jacquelyn	University of Miami
Scott, Emma	Mass College of Art and Design
Sears, Daniella	Ringling College of Art and Design
Sebell, Jennifer	University of Dayton
Seksaria, Videh Prayag	MIT
Sekula, Alexander	Brown University
Seong, Daniel	Harvard University
Serdar, Lenka	Cornell University
Sewell, Gwendolyn	Fordham University
Shapiro, Maxwell	Tulane University
Shavarini, Neemah	UMass Amherst
Shaw, Brendan	Providence College
Shute, Sayin	Babson College
Silver, Matan	Northeastern University
Silverman, Jordan	University of Michigan
Simkowitz, Evan	Washington University in St. Louis
Simkowitz, Matthew	Skidmore College
Simon, Ethan	Skidmore College
Sinha, Tanya	Tufts University
Sirkovich, Peter	University of New Hampshire
Sistig, Lorena	University of Kentucky
Siu, Caleb	UC Berkeley
Sivapurapu, Sriramani	Rutgers University
Smith, Alliyah	American International College
Smith, Christopher	Swarthmore College
Smith, Jade	Cornell University
Smith, Myriam	Dickinson College
Sokolov, Rachel	University of Michigan
Sowsy, Bradley	University of Connecticut
Srinivasan, Sahana	UC Berkeley
Srour, Roy	UMass Amherst
Sterne, Andrew	Harvard University
Stix, Benjamin	Northfield Mount Hermon
Stodola, Hannah	Merrimack College
Suddala, Shravya	University of Vermont
Sun, Claudia	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Sym, Tyler	Colorado College
Tadigiri, Mrinalini	Boston University
Tan, Emily	Bates College
Tang, Alexander	
Tate, Samuel	University of Southern California
Taylor, Jakiya	Southern New Hampshire University
Thiagalingam, Aaron	UC Los Angeles
Thomas, Carmen	
Thompson, Tatum	Assumption College
Tomic, May	Brown University
Tomlinson, Devona	
Tringale, Jennifer	West Virginia University
Troop, Henry	UMass Amherst
Van den Broek, Margot	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Van Der Weide, Sylvia	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Varallo, Gabrielle	Lasell College
Vazakas, Dimosthenis	UMass Boston
Virgile, Noah	Pace University
Vogelzang, Grace	University of Virginia
Vogelzang, Jayne	Amherst College
Wambe, Ivan	UMass Lowell
Wan, Frank	UC San Diego
Wang, Daniel	UC San Diego
Wang, Ethan	UC San Diego
Wang, Harvey	UC Los Angeles
Warren, Owen	Bates College
Weeks, Timothy	Middlesex Community College
Welzenbach, Mark	Middlesex Community College
Wenger, Chance	University of South Carolina
Wharton, Naomi	Harvard University
Wheaton, James	Carnegie Mellon University
White, Mary Lee	Bridgewater State University
Wilkinson, Caroline	Denison University
Wilkinson, Emily	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Wilson, Melissa	Auburn University
Wisner, Aaron	Cornell University
Wong Labow, Charlotte	University of Toronto
Wong, William	UMass Lowell
Wu, David	Cornell University
Wu, Madison	Quinnipiac University
Wu, Ray	UC San Diego
Wurtz, Maeve	Syracuse University
Wynter, Kache	University of Tampa
Yam, Christopher	Purdue University
Yang, Donghee	
Yared, Dominic	Johns Hopkins University
Ye, Ben	Purdue University
Yee, Colby	University of Vermont
Yehia, Noha	Boston University
Yiu, Cecilia	
Yoshida, Iori	
You, Kevin	Virginia Commonwealth University
Yu, Angela	Boston University
Yu, James	Johns Hopkins University
Yuan, Yuan	New York University
Zarba, Evan	UMass Amherst
Zeller, Morgan	Assumption College
Zeng, Sophia	Case Western Reserve University
Zhang, Kairong	
Zhang, Nicholas	Bentley University
Zhang, Victor	University of Rochester
Zhao, Alice	Vanderbilt University
Zheng, Amy	Boston University
Zhou, May	Cornell University
Zhu, Kevin	UMass Amherst
Zibaitis, Gabriel	University of Ottawa
Ziegler, Susan	University of Rochester
Zurlo, Avi	New York University

Class of 2015
Top 11 Destinations

1. UMass Amherst	35
2. Gap Year	18
3. Cornell University	13
4. Boston University	12
Harvard University	12
6. University of Vermont	10
7. MIT	9
UMass Lowell	9
9. Northeastern University	8
10. New York University	7
University of Rochester	7

Class of 2015
Plans at a Glance

College	429 (87.4%)
Gap Year	18 (3.7%)
Military	5 (1.0%)
Work	2 (0.4%)
Undecided/Did Not Report	37 (7.5%)

CORRECTION:

In the MICCA article from last issue, we incorrectly attributed the photo to Susie Kim. The photo was taken by Anar Kansara.

Musket's ability, and we apologize for any inaccuracies. This list may not be reproduced without written permission. Congratulations to all the seniors of the Class of 2015 from The Musket!

Editorial

Applying early can combat senior stress.

The college process has ended for most LHS seniors. However, at the beginning of this long journey, every college-bound senior had to choose among several application strategies: early decision, early action, regular decision, rolling admissions and open admissions. The decision of where and when to apply can have a large effect on the stress seniors experience.

Seniors apply early decision or early action for a variety of reasons. Some apply to their top choice or a "reach" school, with the hope that applying early will show commitment and ultimately increase their chances of being admitted.

In this scenario, an acceptance could alleviate stress considerably. Those seniors who are accepted to a top choice early have a destination in place and can embrace thoughts of senioritis. On the other hand, applying to a top choice early and getting rejected makes students much more dependent upon regular decision results.

Others apply to their "safety" schools, or schools where one has a strong chance of being accepted, during the early pool. In this case, an acceptance can ease tension, ensuring students that they have an option for next year, but can also fuel stress if these schools do not seem like the best fit.

With all that being said, applying to college early has its perks in comparison to regular decision. Seniors who have the luxury of being accepted to their top schools early can breathe easy after just one quarter of the school year, while students who apply regular decision do not hear back until about four months later.

In addition, for seniors who choose to apply regular decision, being surrounded by peers who already know where they will attend college can promote anxiety.

Thus, applying early, even to a "safety" school, can be beneficial to LHS seniors' mental health. The knowledge that one has somewhere to learn, have fun and grow for the next four years relieves a tremendous amount of stress. That knowledge may even be a source of new energy and confidence if a student decides to apply elsewhere in the regular pool.

The early application can be a powerful tool in allowing LHS students to experience senior year to the fullest. Among other things, senior year is students' last chance to spend time with friends before going their separate ways, as well as to make the most out of what LHS has to offer: to join a new club, attend a performance or take a new elective course. This aspect of senior year is every bit as important as the college process.

Managing the hectic college application process strategically, in choosing whether to apply early and where to apply early, can give seniors the chance to relax and appreciate their last year at LHS.

THANK YOU

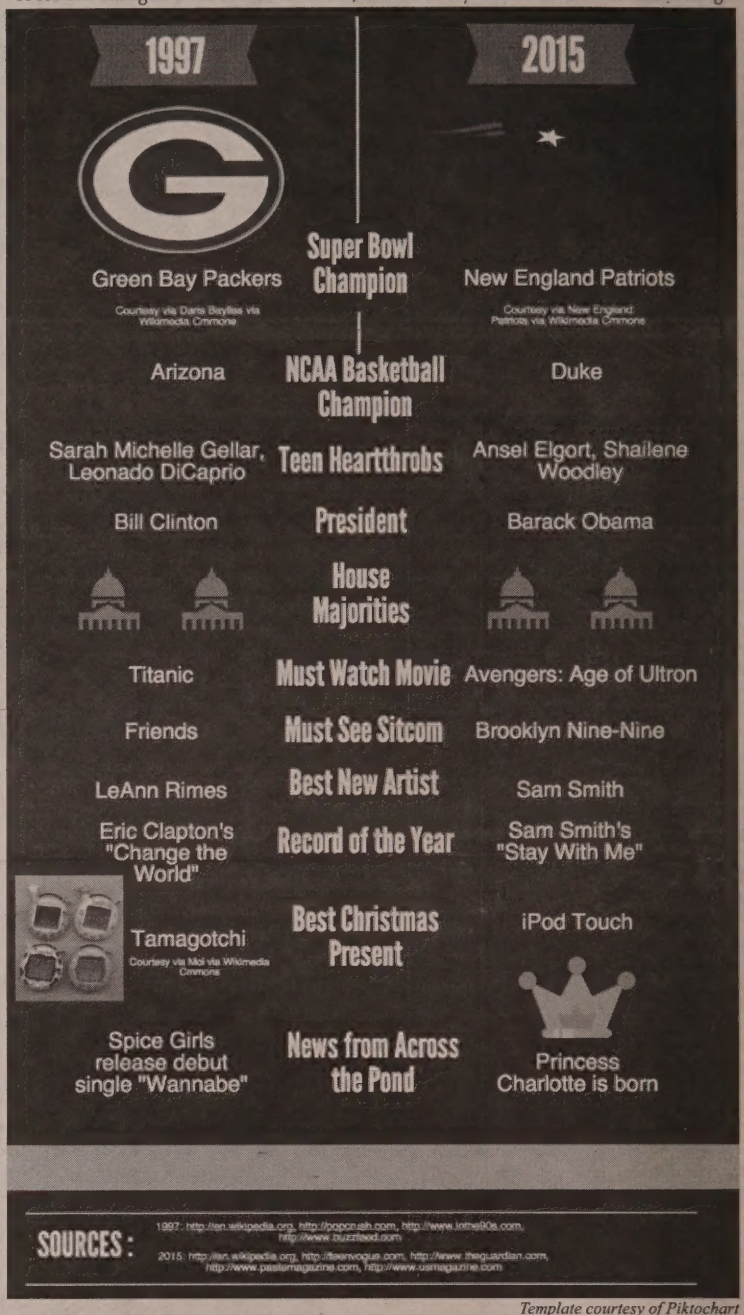
to our generous donors for supporting the Musket. We couldn't do it without you!

- Jeanne Lin
- Bhavani Tirupati
- Lorraine Bennett
- Susan Bennett

Note: We apologize if you donated and your name is not on our list. Please send an email to musketnews@gmail.com

Then and Now

A lot has changed since the Class of 2015 was born. By News Editor Michelle Chong.



Template courtesy of Piktochart

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2014–2015

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Soumya Ram

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Print Opinion Editor
Andrea Michelson

Online Opinion Editor
Valerie Hsieh

A&E Editors
Dan Kim
Cathy Ouyang

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Ashvin Antony
Alana Kepler

Online Columnists
Ben Averbuch
Alex Leopold
Ryan Leung
Becca Xu

Staff Photographers
Thomas Arnow
Adrian Ayala
Sarah Bernstein
Anar Kansara
Alice Li
Chao Zheng Li
Alfredo Murillo
Yooni Park
Niha Putta
Abby Quint
Izzy Rourke
Claudia Sun
Helen Swann
Andrew Wang

Layout Designers
Vineetha Bheemarasetty
Woojin Kang
Kara Luo
Shinji Rho
Eleanor Wang
Hannah Wang
Rachel Zhang

Beat Writers
Jungwan Kim
Kristin Tissera

Staff Writers
Tolga Bozkaya
Colin Cantwell
Lizzie Case
Elizabeth Case
Bharath Chari
Katie Chen
Katherine Cheng
Avery Gehring

Staff Writers (cont.)
Steph Glass
Michael Heyang
Richard Huang
Noah Hudacek
Dabin Kang
Anar Kansara
Eunice Kim
Nikki Kim
Ethan Kleppner
Annie Ma
Elizabeth Nakhtigal
Brian Nam
Karisma Pathak
Mandy Quan
Max Saltman
Alexandria Snyders Dykeman
Hanna Tuomi
Matthew Weiss
Grace Wu
William Zen

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Correspondence to The Musket c/o Lexington High School, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421 or by email to musketnews@gmail.com. Short, tasteful responses are welcome.